

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 38. (currently amended) A system for automatically locating a variably positionable data field on a document, automatically assigning a numerical score or a letter grade to a the document, and transferring the numerical score or letter grade to an electronic database, comprising:

a) a data field residing on the document in a variably positioned location that is automatically determined as a result of calculated coordinates for an image feature surrounding said data field;

b) ~~an~~ said image feature surrounding said data field used for identifying a location of said data field;

c) means for digitally imaging the document;

d) means for analyzing said digital image in order to accomplish a task of calculating said coordinates for said image feature;

e) means for using said calculated coordinates as a reference for finding a region of interest containing user response data within said digital image;

f) means for analyzing a digital image within said region of interest to obtain a digital representation of said user response data contained in said region of interest;

g) means for generating a numerical score or letter grade from said digital representation of said user response data; and

h) means for transferring said numerical score or letter grade to the electronic database.

Claim 39. (withdrawn) An automatic score or grade assigning and transferring system, according to Claim 38, wherein said data field is variably positionable on the document.

Claim 40. (previously presented) An automatic score or grade assigning and transferring system, according to Claim 38, wherein said means for digitally imaging said document comprises a digital camera.

Claim 41. (previously presented) An automatic score or grade assigning and transferring system, according to Claim 38, wherein said user response data contains identification data and grade data.

Claim 42. (previously presented) An automatic score or grade assigning and transferring system, according to Claim 38, wherein said image feature surrounding said data field is a rectangle.

Claim 43. (previously presented) An automatic score or grade assigning and transferring system, according to Claim 38, wherein said user response data is selected from a group consisting of input bubbles and boxed regions for hand-written indicia.

Claim 44. (previously presented) An automatic score or grade assigning and transferring system, according to Claim 38, wherein the system is controlled by at least one microprocessor and associated programming.

Claim 45. (previously presented) An automatic score or grade assigning and transferring system, according to Claim 38, wherein the electronic database is an electronic gradebook.

Claim 46. (currently amended) A system for automatically locating a variably positionable data field on a document, automatically assigning a numerical score or a letter grade to a the document, and transferring the numerical score or letter grade to an electronic gradebook, comprising:

- a) a variably positionable data field residing on the document;
- b) an image feature surrounding said data field used for identifying a location of said data field;
- c) a digital camera for digitally imaging the document;
- d) means for analyzing said digital image in order to accomplish a task of calculating coordinates for said image feature, wherein no data field location information is known by the system prior to said digital imaging and coordinate calculation;
- e) means for using said calculated coordinates as a reference for finding a region of interest containing user response data within said digital image, wherein said user response data contains identification data and grade data;

f) means for analyzing a digital image within said region of interest to obtain a digital representation of said user response data contained in said region of interest;

g) means for generating a numerical score or letter grade from said digital representation of said user response data; and

h) means for transferring said numerical score or letter grade to the electronic database.

Claim 47. (previously presented) An automatic score or grade assigning and transferring system, according to Claim 46, wherein said image feature surrounding said data field is a rectangle.

Claim 48. (previously presented) An automatic score or grade assigning and transferring system, according to Claim 46, wherein said user response data is selected from a group consisting of input bubbles and boxed regions for hand-written indicia.

Claim 49. (previously presented) An automatic score or grade assigning and transferring system, according to Claim 46, wherein the system is controlled by at least one microprocessor and associated programming.